THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has planned to provide telecom facility in all the remaining uncovered villages as per the terms and conditions finalised by office of the Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund while awarding the work. All these villages are to be covered by November, 2007 as per terms and conditions of the contract.

(b) to (d) Financial support for meeting operating expenditure is extended to about 5.20 lakh Village Public Telephones (VPTS) covering 90% of the eligible Census 1991, revenue villages. More than 50% of 1,84,000 Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs have already been replaced and receiving support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The replacement of balance will also receive support from USOF.

Agreements have recently been signed for extending support for providing 46,253 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages with a population more than 2000 and for providing 66,822 VPTs in 1991 Census revenue villages which are eligible and remained uncovered so far within the prescribed time period. PublicTele-Info-Centres (PTICs) and High Speed PTICS (HPTICs) and eligible Rural household Telephone lines will also receive support on finalization of Agreements. Support is also being provided to all Rural household Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) installed prior to 1.4.2002. The sums of money made available to the USOF are to be utilized for extending support to both prescribed Shared Access as well as eligible rural household lines.

The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 1.4.2002 and support for the activities covered under Universal Service Obligation has been extended from the 2002-03. So far an amount of Rs. 700 crore made available for providing Universal services has already been fully utilized. Additional funds are expected to be allocated during the current financial year.

New activitial for Postal Scheme

710. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts is looking for innovative solutions to the problems;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Department of Posts is going to serve as tourist guide to the tourists; and

(c) what steps are being taken or proposed to take to make the Indian Posts a global hub for mail sorting service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has innovative solutions to increase its revenue generation through schemes such as "Retail Post", "Media Post" and in providing value added services.

Retail Post is a service in which the vast network and reach of post offices across the country is utilized to provide the facility of collecting bill payments, sale of application forms etc. to such of the service providers/ utility agencies/electricity boards/Government institutions and private organizations, who may avail the service. The services are provided by the post offices on commission basis.

Media Post provides an opportunity to corporate customers/ organizations/Government and others to advertise their messages, products and services on postal stationery, postal vans, letter boxes and in the post office buildings.

Department offers value added services such as Speed Post, Express Parcel Post and Business Post. Speed Post Service offers value additions and features such as Pick up, Book now pay later facilities, monthly billing, web based track and trace of articles and proof of delivery Express Parcel Post service provides for expeditious transmission of parcels. Business Post Centre provide facilities for pre-mailing activities such as enveloping, addressing and franking of articles.

The Department has introduced internet based e-post service which facilitates transmission of messages addressed to any postal address in the country or to an e-mail Id. The messages addressed to a postal address in the country are received through the internet at the destination post office, downloaded, printed and delivered through postmen.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) India Post already sorts all its outward international mail. However, there is no proposal to make it a global hub for mail sorting service.

Tampering of Caller Line Identification

711. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a private telecom operator was found to be tampering with code of incoming global calls to evade Access Deficit Charges;

(b) if so, whether the BSNL had disconnected the point of interconnect after issuing a notice to the private telecom company;

(c) whether the errant operator has since paid any penalty to BSNL and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether such alleged tampering of Caller Line Identification could impact the security of the nation as it would be difficult to trace these calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BSNL had disconnected the Point of Interconnection (PoI) at some locations.

(c) As per the provisions of Interconnect Agreement, BSNL had raised claims at 517 locations for payment of Rs. 259 crores. So far an amount of approximately Rs. 100 crores has been paid to BSNL. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 3rd December, 2004 has directed the errant operator to make full payment as claimed by BSNL *vide* its letter dated 29th October, 2004 *i.e.* the sum of Rs. 182.7 crores within a period of four weeks and subject to this payment by the errant operator, there shall be stay on the disconnection of PoIs by BSNL. The matter is *sub-judice*.

(d) Yes, Sir.